



IFW 2616

PATENT

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Katie Hales
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/004,691

Attorney Docket: DP-300214

Filing Date: 12/04/2001

Group Art Unit: 2616

Applicant: Brian T. Murray et al.

Examiner: Abelson, Ronald B.

Title: CROSS LINK INTRA-VEHICULAR DATA COMMUNICATION USING A
FIELD COUPLED TRANSMISSION LINE

MS Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 3, 2006, imposing a
Restriction Requirement between:

Group I, claims 1-17, 26, and 28-30, directed to a communication system; and

Group II, claims 18-25, 27, and 31-51, directed to coupling network.

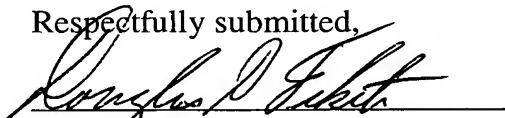
In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects to
prosecute Group I, claims 1-17, 26 and 28-30. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully
traverse the requirement.

Claim 1, representative of Group I, is to a vehicular communications network that includes a signal coupling system. Claim 18 of Group II is to a signal coupling system. Even a causal read of these claims reveals that they are merely different aspects of but a single invention. Moreover, prior art showing the coupling system, or network with the coupling system, should properly be considered in examining all Groups, regardless of where such art is found within the classification scheme of the Patent Office. Efficiency, both on the part of Applicants, and also on the part of the Patent Office, mandates that, where the claims have common distinctive features such as here, all claims should be examined together. The Restriction Requirement unduly burdens Applicants by requiring them to file and prosecute multiple applications, and pay fees and maintain multiple patents, to obtain the patent protection to which they are entitled.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn, and that all claims of Group I and Group II be considered in the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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